Abbreviations:

ATCC	American Type Culture Collection, Rockville, USA.
BCA	Bicinchroninic acid, (used. with copper sulphate, to assay protein)
BSA	Bovine Serum Albumin
DMEM	Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium
EGTA	Ethylenebis(oxyethylenenitrilo)tetraacetic acid
FCS	Foetal calf serum
HEPES	(N-[2-Hydroxyethyl]piperazine-N'-[2-ethanesulphonic acid])
HBSS	Hank's Balanced Salt Solution
hMCP-1	Human Monocyte Chemoattractant Protein-1
PBS	Phosphate buffered saline
PCR	Polymerase chain reaction

AMPLITAQ™, available from Perkin-Elmer Cetus, is used as the source of thermostable DNA polymerase.

Binding Buffer is 50 mM HEPES, 1 mM $CaCl_2$, 5 mM $MgCl_2$, 0.5% foetal calf serum, adjusted to pH 7.2 with 1 M NaOH.

Non-Essential Amino Acids (100X concentrate) is: L-Alanine, 890 mg/l; L-Asparagine, 1320 mg/l; L-Aspartic acid, 1330 mg/l; L-Glutamic acid, 1470 mg/l; Glycine, 750 mg/l; L-Proline, 1150 mg/l and; L-Serine, 1050 mg/l.

Hypoxanthine and Thymidine Supplement (50x concentrate) is: hypoxanthine, 680 mg/l and; thymidine, 194 mg/l.

Penicillin-Streptomycin is: Penicillin G (sodium salt); 5000 units/ml; Streptomycin sulphate, 5000 μg/ml.

Human monocytic cell line THP-1 cells are available from ATCC, accession number ATCC TIB-202.

Hank's Balanced Salt Solution (HBSS) was obtained from Gibco; see *Proc. Soc. Exp. Biol. Med.*, 1949, **71**, 196.

Synthetic cell culture medium, RPMI 1640 was obtained from Gibco; it contains inorganic salts [$Ca(NO_3)_2.4H_2O$ 100 mg/l; KCl 400 mg/l; $MgSO_4.7H_2O$ 100 mg/l; NaCl 6000

mg/l; $NaHCO_3$ 2000 mg/l & Na_2HPO_4 (anhyd) 800 mg/l], D-Glucose 2000 mg/l, reduced glutathione 1 mg/l, amino acids and vitamins.

FURA-2/AM is 1-[2-(5-carboxyoxazol-2-yl)-6-aminobenzofuran-5-oxy]-2-(2'-amino-5'-methylphenoxy)-ethane-*N,N,N',N'*-tetraacetic acid pentaacetoxymethyl ester and was obtained from Molecular Probes, Eugene, Oregon, USA.

Blood Sedimentation Buffer contains 8.5g/l NaCl and 10g/l hydroxyethyl cellulose.

Lysis Buffer is 0.15M NH_4Cl^-, 10mM $KHCO_3$, 1mM EDTA

Whole Cell Binding Buffer is 50 mM HEPES, 1 mM $CaCl_2$, 5 mM $MgCl_2$, 0.5% BSA, 0.01% NaN_3, adjusted to pH 7.2 with 1M NaOH.

Wash buffer is 50mM HEPES. 1mM $CaCl_2$, 5mM $MgCl_2$, 0.5% heat inactivated FCS, 0.5MNaCl adjusted to pH7.2 with 1M NaOH.

General molecular biology procedures can be followed from any of the methods described in "Molecular Cloning - A Laboratory Manual" Second Edition, Sambrook, Fritsch and Maniatis (Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, 1989).

i) Cloning and expression of hMCP-1 receptor

The MCP-1 receptor B (CCR2B) cDNA was cloned by PCR from THP-1 cell RNA using suitable oligonucleotide primers based on the published MCP-1 receptor sequences (Charo *et al.*, 1994, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, **91**, 2752). The resulting PCR products were cloned into vector PCR-II™ (InVitrogen, San Diego, CA.). Error free CCR2B cDNA was subcloned as a Hind III-Not I fragment into the eukaryotic expression vector pCDNA3 (InVitrogen) to generate pCDNA3/CC-CKR2A and pCDNA3/CCR2B respectively.

Linearised pCDNA3/CCR2B DNA was transfected into CHO-K1 cells by calcium phosphate precipitation (Wigler *et al.*, 1979, *Cell*, **16**, 777). Transfected cells were selected by the addition of Geneticin Sulphate (G418, Gibco BRL) at 1mg/ml, 24 hours after the cells had been transfected. Preparation of RNA and Northern blotting were carried out as described previously (Needham *et al.*, 1995, *Prot. Express. Purific.*, **6**, 134). CHO-K1 clone 7 (CHO-CCR2B) was identified as the highest MCP-1 receptor B expressor.

ii) Preparation of membrane fragments

CHO-CCR2B cells were grown in DMEM supplemented with 10% foetal calf serum, 2 mM glutamine, 1x Non-Essential Amino Acids, 1x Hypoxanthine and Thymidine Supplement and Penicillin-Streptomycin (at 50 µg streptomycin/ml, Gibco BRL). Membrane fragments were prepared using cell lysis/differential centrifugation methods as described

previously (Siciliano *et al.*, 1990, *J. Biol. Chem.*, **265**, 19658). Protein concentration was estimated by BCA protein assay (Pierce, Rockford, Illinois) according to the manufacturer's instructions.

iii) Assay

^{125}I MCP-1 was prepared using Bolton and Hunter conjugation (Bolton *et al.*, 1973, *Biochem. J.*, **133**, 529; Amersham International plc]. Equilibrium binding assays were carried out using the method of Ernst *et al.*, 1994, *J. Immunol.*, **152**, 3541. Briefly, varying amounts of ^{125}I-labeled MCP-1 were added to 7μg of purified CHO-CCR2B cell membranes in 100 μl of Binding Buffer. After 1 hour incubation at room temperature the binding reaction mixtures were filtered and washed 5 times through a plate washer (Brandel MLR-96T Cell Harvester) using ice cold Binding Buffer. Filter mats (Brandel GF/B) were pre-soaked for 60 minutes in 0.3% polyethylenimine prior to use. Following filtration individual filters were separated into 3.5ml tubes (Sarstedt No. 55.484) and bound ^{125}I-labeled MCP-1 was determined (LKB 1277 Gammamaster). Cold competition studies were performed as above using 100 pM ^{125}I-labeled MCP-1 in the presence of varying concentrations of unlabelled MCP-1. Non-specific binding was determined by the inclusion of a 200-fold molar excess of unlabelled MCP-1 in the reaction.

Ligand binding studies with membrane fragments prepared from CHO-CCR2B cells showed that the CCR2B receptor was present at a concentration of 0.2 pmoles/mg of membrane protein and bound MCP-1 selectively and with high affinity (IC_{50} = 110 pM, K_d =120 pM). Binding to these membranes was completely reversible and reached equilibrium after 45 minutes at room temperature, and there was a linear relationship between MCP-1 binding and CHO-CCR2B cell membrane concentration when using MCP-1 at concentrations between 100 pM and 500 pM.

Test compounds dissolved in DMSO (5μl) were tested in competition with 100 pM labelled MCP-1 over a concentration range (0.01-50μM) in duplicate using eight point dose-response curves and IC_{50} concentrations were calculated.

Compounds tested of the present invention had IC_{50} values of 50μM or less in the hMCP-1 receptor binding assay described herein. For example Compound 2 in Table 1 showed IC_{50} of 1.17μM in hMCP-1.

b) MCP-1 mediated calcium flux in THP-1 cells